

OAHU RAILWAY & LAND COMPANY TERMINAL, LAND  
DEPARTMENT OFFICE AND DOCUMENT STORAGE BUILDING  
355 King Street  
Honolulu  
Honolulu County  
Hawaii

HABS No. HI-573-B

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
333 Bush Street  
San Francisco, CA 94104

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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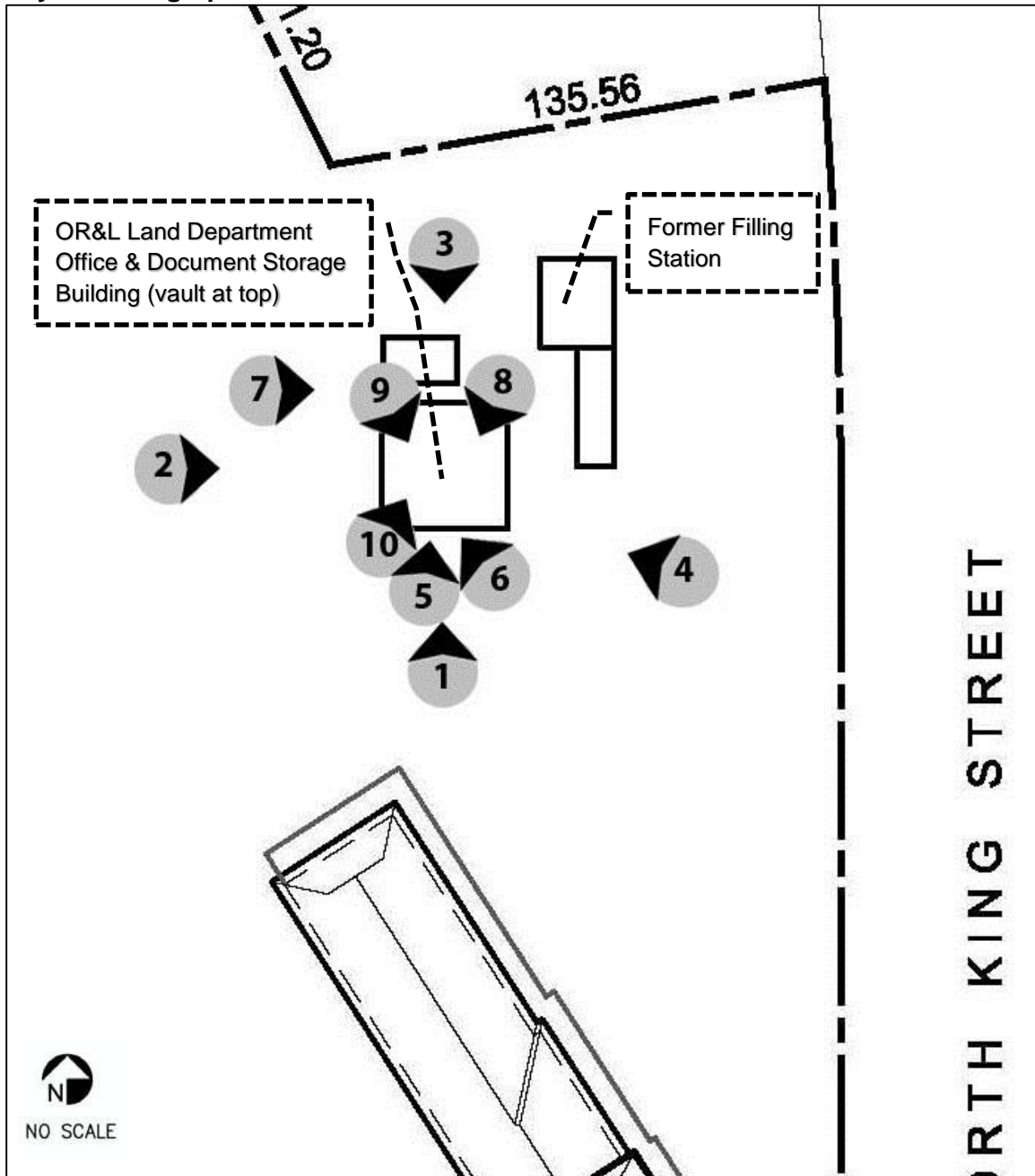
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Photographs 1, 2, 7, Silverhouse Photographic, Athens, GA, August 2012  
Photographs 3-6, 8-10, Franzen Photography, Kailua, HI, December 2015

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Key to Photographs



## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### OAHU RAILWAY & LAND COMPANY TERMINAL, LAND DEPARTMENT OFFICE AND DOCUMENT STORAGE BUILDING

HABS No. HI-573-B

**Location:** 355 North King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii.

UTM Coordinates (NAD83)

617754. 2357545

**Significance:** The Oahu Railway & Land Company Terminal, Land Department Office and Document Storage Building is locally significant for its association with the Oahu Railway & Land Company (OR&L). OR&L developed Oahu's rail system, providing transportation for the sugar and pineapple plantations, the military, and residents of Oahu, and for prompting development across the island. The building is also significant as an example of the Classical Revival Style, with elements drawn from Greek Revival Style.

**Description:**

The OR&L Company Terminal, Land Department Office and Document Storage Building is a two-story building with an approximately 38' x 38' footprint. It is situated on the outskirts of downtown Honolulu, in Iwilei, near the corner of North King Street and Iwilei Road, on a five-and-one-half acre parcel, which also contains the OR&L Co. Depot, an open parking area, and an abandoned filling station. This two-story building is constructed of stuccoed concrete with a gable roof and exhibits two hallmark elements of Classical Revival Style: smooth surfaces and monumental proportions. There is a heavy peaked pediment on the southeast gable, with the molding detail continuing along the eaves at the sides of the building. The smooth walls of the second floor are punctuated by equally spaced rectangular windows, with three at the front and east sides, and four at the west side. A continuous sill course circles the entire building, as does an outset smooth frieze band. This second floor detailing mimicks a traditional entablature. The entry is centered on the southeast end, and is topped with a pediment and flanked by small two-light windows that have label moldings. There is a projecting balcony supported by solid curved brackets at the southeast side of the building. A single-panel replacement door with a vision panel provides access to this balcony from the second floor. The interior of the building includes an entry foyer with staircase, two rooms and a closet on the first floor, and a large open room, with a small bathroom and closet on the second floor.

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Behind the building is a concrete vault that is one-story in height with a rectangular-plan. The vault was constructed sometime between 1919 and 1927.<sup>1</sup> It is separated from the Land Department Office and Document Storage Building by approximately two feet. It has small vent openings near the eave line, and a door opening (now boarded over) centered on its west side. Its exterior has a board-formed concrete finish.

The building appears to have had few alterations since its construction. Those that are visible include the replacement of a number of windows with jalousies, addition of a handrail at the front entrance, as well as concrete in-fill of a balustrade along and around the upstairs access to the interior staircase.

**History:**

See Oahu Railway & Land Company Terminal HABS No. HI-573 for information on the history of the property on which the Land Department Office and Document Storage Building is located.

The following historical information is taken from the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Oahu Railway & Land Co. Office and Document Storage Building:

OR&L constructed the Land Department Office and Document Storage Building in 1914 to house the department's offices, as well as to store related documents. The department was a key part of OR&L's business, which relied upon the interdependence of land development and rail operation for its profitability. The building was used by the land department until the State of Hawaii took possession of the parcel following the settlement of the State's lawsuit to retake the property in 1961. Since the State took ownership, the building has been used as offices, including its current tenant, the Kalihi-Palama Culture and Arts Society.

**Sources:**

Chiddix, Jim, & MacKinnon Simpson. *Next Stop Honolulu! Oahu Railway & Land Company 1889-1971*. Honolulu: Sugar Cane Press. 2004.

Fairfax, Geoffrey W. *The Architecture of Honolulu*. Norfolk Island, Australia: Island Heritage Limited. 1971.

Hibbard, Don. *Oahu Railway and Land Company Depot and Document Storage Building, National Register Nomination Form*. Washington D.C.: US Department of the Interior. 1987.

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<sup>1</sup> Glenn Mason, "Oahu Railway and Land Company Offices and Document Storage Building," Inventory form in the files of (prepared for) Hawaii Historic Preservation Department. 1978.

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Historic Buildings Task Force. *Old Honolulu: A Guide to Oahu's Historic Buildings*. Honolulu: Historic Buildings Task Force. 1970.

*Honolulu Star Bulletin*

"A Lifeline For Oahu: The O.R. & L. And How it Grew." September 5, 1949. p. 9.

"State Sues O.R. and L. for 11 Acres, \$1.2 Million." February 14, 1961. p. 1:6.

Black, F. "Kashiwa Calls OR&L Deal Very Favorable to State." September 10, 1961. p. 4:1.

Jones, Lesleigh. Draft National Register Nomination Forms, Oahu Railway & Land Co. Office & Document Storage Building and Oahu Railway & Land Co. Terminal Building, both dated December, 2013.

Mason Architects, Inc. Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project, Surveyed Property Considered Eligible for National Register: Oahu Railway & Land Co. Terminal Building. Prepared for the November 2008 Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Section 4(f) Evaluation. July 2008.

**Historian(s):** Lesleigh Jones, Mason Architects, January 2016

**Project Information:** This report is part of the documentation for properties identified as adversely affected by the Honolulu Rail Transit Project (HRTTP) in the City and County of Honolulu. This documentation was required under Stipulation V.C. (1, 2) of the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP) Programmatic Agreement (PA), which was signed by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration, the Hawaii State Historic Preservation Officer, the United States Navy, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. After consultation with the City and County of Honolulu, the National Park Service, Pacific West Regional Office, in a letter dated June 29, 2011, stipulated the details of the required documentation efforts, including documentation for this and other properties affected by the HRTTP. The field work was conducted in December 2015, and the initial report prepared in January 2016. The report was finalized in \_\_\_\_\_ 2016.

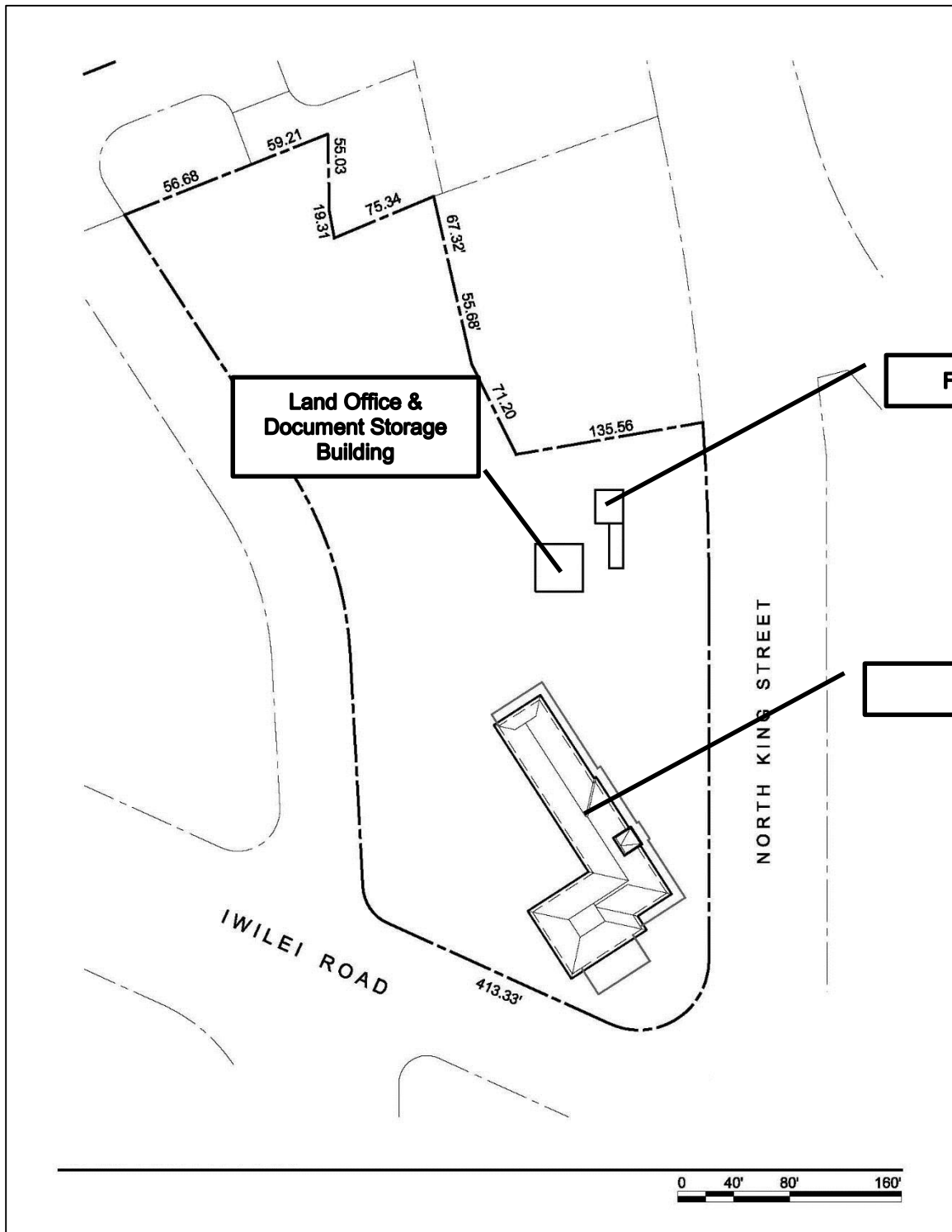
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## Location Map



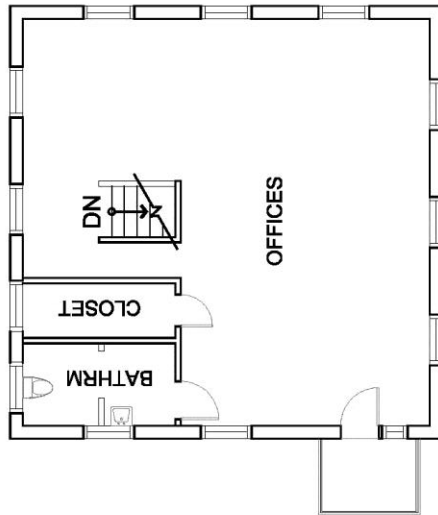
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Site Plan

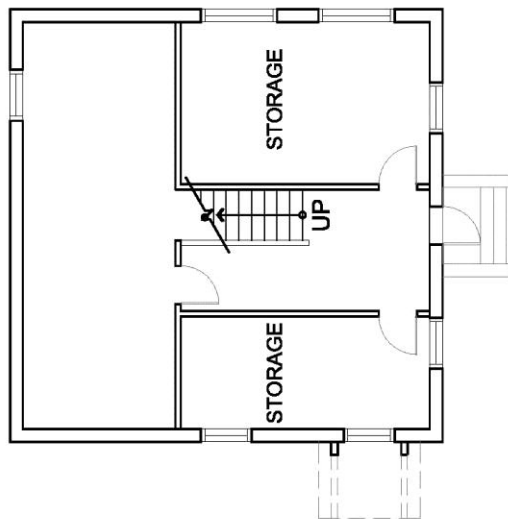


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Sketch Plan



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

NOT TO SCALE

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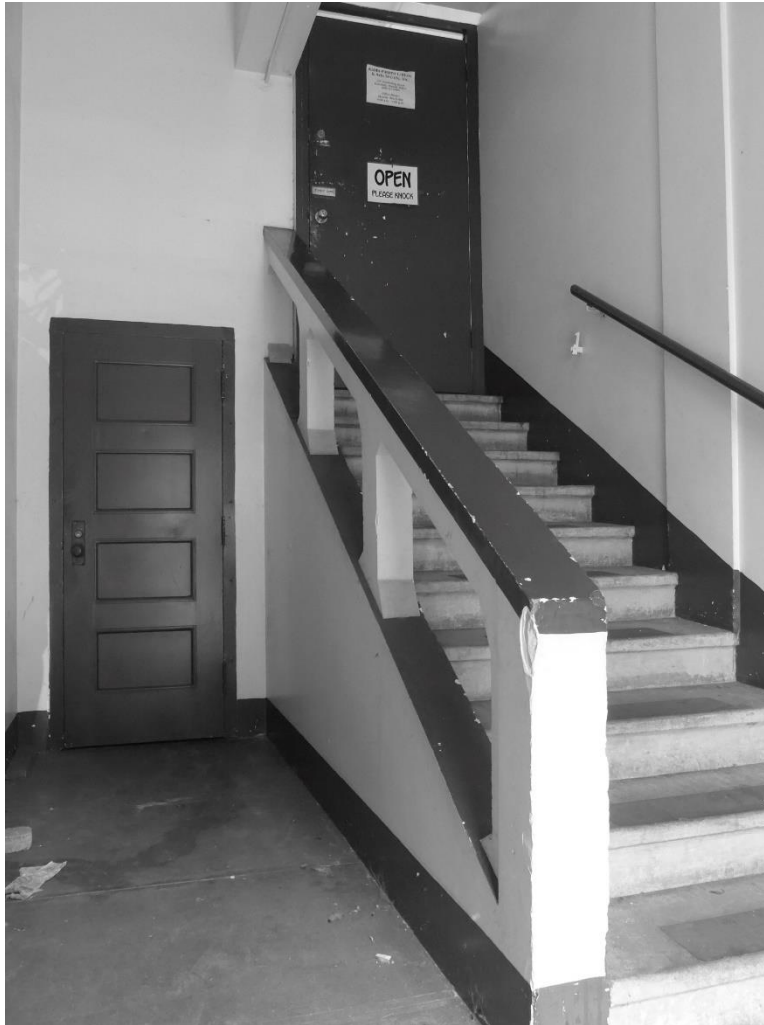
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**FIELD NOTES**

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Undated World War I photo post card showing OR&L Co. Land Department Office and Document Storage Building at center right. Photo held at Hawaii State Archives, Folder PP88-2, Railroads – Oahu Railway Station W.W. I, 003.